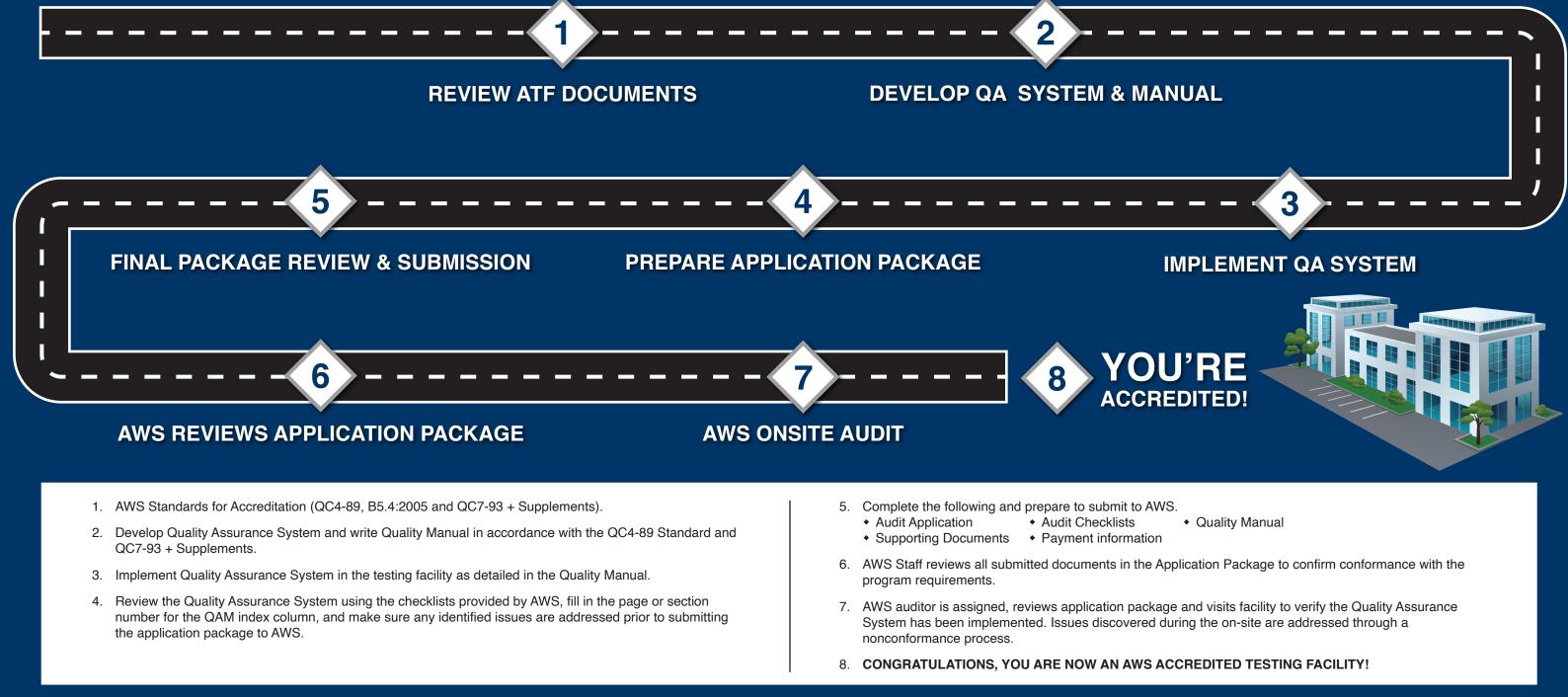# THE PATH TO ACCREDITATION

Congratulations on your decision to explore becoming an AWS Accredited Testing Facility

Manufacturers, fabricators, and other welding industry enterprises realize the shortcomings of self-qualifying their workforce and are looking to outsource their welder qualification and testing. AWS Accredited Testing Facilities (ATFs) meet or exceed minimum facility, personnel, and equipment requirements to test and qualify welders for Certified Welder credential/s. To date, there are just over 200 ATFs worldwide, testing and qualifying welders for AWS Certification and making the world a safer place to live. This means that there are abundant opportunities to become a profitable AWS Accredited Testing Facility.

1 REVIEW ATF DOCUMENTS

2 DEVELOP QA SYSTEM & MANUAL

3 IMPLEMENT QA SYSTEM

4 PREPARE APPLICATION PACKAGE

5 FINAL PACKAGE REVIEW & SUBMISSION

6 AWS REVIEWS APPLICATION PACKAGE

7 AWS ONSITE AUDIT

8 YOU'RE ACCREDITED!

1. AWS Standards for Accreditation (QC4-89, B5.4:2005 and QC7-93 + Supplements).

2. Develop Quality Assurance System and write Quality Manual in accordance with the QC4-89 Standard and QC7-93 + Supplements.

3. Implement Quality Assurance System in the testing facility as detailed in the Quality Manual.

4. Review the Quality Assurance System using the checklists provided by AWS, fill in the page or section number for the QAM index column, and make sure any identified issues are addressed prior to submitting the application package to AWS.

5. Complete the following and prepare to submit to AWS.
   - Audit Application
   - Audit Checklists
   - Quality Manual
   - Supporting Documents
   - Payment information

6. AWS Staff reviews all submitted documents in the Application Package to confirm conformance with the program requirements.

7. AWS auditor is assigned, reviews application package and visits facility to verify the Quality Assurance System has been implemented. Issues discovered during the on-site are addressed through a nonconformance process.

8. **CONGRATULATIONS, YOU ARE NOW AN AWS ACCREDITED TESTING FACILITY!**

For more information and guidance on becoming an Accredited Testing Facility, please contact *sales@aws.org*.